

PACKAGING FOR DISPOSABLE SOFT CONTACT LENSES

RELATED APPLICATIONS

LAB
[0001] The present application is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. ¹⁵⁷⁸¹³²~~1578132~~ (attorney docket 11762-17), filed February 17, 2004, ^{new as amended} which is a continuation-in-part of PCT Patent Application Serial No. PCT/AU02/01105, filed August 7, 2002, designating the United States, both of which are hereby incorporated by reference in their entirety.

BACKGROUND

[0002] The present invention relates to contact lens packaging and more particularly, to an improved economic form of package for a contact lens which satisfies lens packaging criteria, including sterility and environmentally sensitive disposability.

PRIOR ART

[0003] Soft disposable contact lenses are commonly contained in disposable packages. As packaging adds to the overall cost of the lens, it should be made as economically as possible but without compromise to the requisite packaging criteria. The traditional blister pack packaging (shown in Figs. 1-3) for disposable lenses (both bi-weekly and daily) consists of a polypropylene receptacle for the lens (herein after referred to as a "boat"), topped by a multi-layer film consisting of polyethylene, aluminum, a bonding agent and polypropylene. The boat is usually an injection molded plastic which has high stiffness but is capable of limited elastic deflection and includes a preformed recess. The boat is filled with a suitable storage solution, preferably saline, and receives a single lens in situ. The blister pack is then autoclaved using steam and pressure to terminal sterility. These blister packs are presented to the patient in boxes of individual packs (Figs. 4-5) or as multiple blister strips.

[0004] The marketing objective is to present the contact lens to a patient in an aesthetically pleasing package that both satisfies the statutory requirements for sterility and stability, and allows the patient to remove the lens safely and easily.